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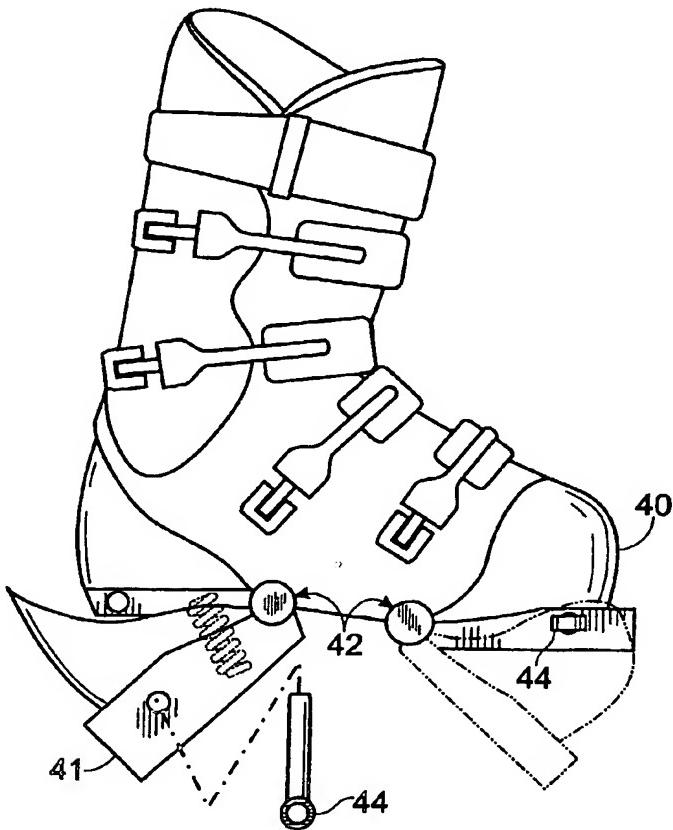
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS FACILITATING WALKING IN SKI BOOTS



(57) Abstract: An apparatus, in its first, second, and third embodiments, that is intended to be temporarily attached to the soles of ski boots, whenever the wearer is not attached to skis and desires the ability to comfortably walk or desires protection for the soles of the ski boots. The first three embodiments generally comprise of sandal-like soles made of a resilient, elastic, springy material, which aids in the natural walking action by alternately compressing and releasing, adding energy to the step, thereby aiding walking while wearing ski boots. A fourth embodiment is made by altering the ski boots themselves so that the heel (41) and toe (40) sections of the boot are hinged (42) to the underside of the boot, and contain a spring that adds energy to each step taken by the user. The hinged sections are pinned against the boot while skiing.



- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for all designations*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 02/38422

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 A43B5/04 A43B13/18 A43B21/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 A43B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	FR 2 810 512 A (JOURNET CHRISTOPHE) 28 December 2001 (2001-12-28) the whole document	1, 8, 10, 11
X	US 6 044 578 A (KELZ WILLIAM K) 4 April 2000 (2000-04-04) cited in the application the whole document	1, 10, 15, 16
X	FR 701 729 A (MAYER KA ROLY) 21 March 1931 (1931-03-21) the whole document	17-19
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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